

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (previously presented) A portable computer, comprising:

- a portable computer housing having a top deck with an opening disposed over
a selected component;
- a display coupled to the portable computer housing, the display being movable
to a closed position along the top deck; and
- a component cover removably mounted over the opening, comprising:
 - a coupling mechanism to secure a portion of the component cover
detachably to the portable computer housing; and
 - a force-displaceable coupling mechanism to secure a remaining portion
of the component cover detachably to the portable computer
housing;
- wherein the force-displaceable coupling mechanism biases the
coupling mechanism into engagement with the housing.

2. (original) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, further comprising a network card removably disposed beneath the component cover.

3. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, further comprising a real time clock battery disposed beneath the component cover.

4. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the component cover.

5. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the portable computer housing proximate the opening.

6. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 5, wherein the force-displaceable coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

7. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic material.

8. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the display is coupled to the portable computer housing by a hinge.

9. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 2, wherein the coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the portable computer housing proximate the opening.

10. (previously presented) The portable computer as recited in claim 9, wherein the force-displaceable coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

11. (original) The portable computer as recited in claim 2, wherein the portable computer housing is a notebook computer housing.

12. (currently amended) An electronic device, comprising:

a device housing having a top deck with an opening disposed over a selected component;

a display coupled to the device housing, the display being movable to a closed position along the top deck; and

a component cover removably mounted over the opening, comprising:

a force-actuated coupling mechanism; and

at least one coupling mechanism cooperative with the force-actuated

coupling mechanism to mount the component cover detachably

to the device housing, such that the component cover can be

removed and separated from the device housing.

13. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 12, further comprising a network card disposed beneath the component cover.

14. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 13, further comprising a real time clock battery disposed beneath the component cover.

15. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 13, further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the component cover.

16. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least one coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the device housing proximate the opening.

17. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 16, wherein the force-actuated coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

18. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 17, wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic material.

19. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the display is coupled to the device housing by a hinge.

20. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 13, wherein the at least one coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the device housing proximate the opening.

21. (previously presented) The electronic device as recited in claim 20, wherein the force-actuated coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to releasably hold the component cover over the opening.

22. (currently amended) A method of facilitating replacement of a modem card in a device capable of communicating over a network, comprising:

locating a modem card connector within a portable computer housing at a position between a motherboard and a top deck of the housing, the modem card connector being accessible via an opening in the top deck of the housing; and

providing a detachable quick-release cover for the portable computer housing to cover the opening, such that the detachable quick-release cover can be released and freed from the portable computer housing.

23. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising connecting a network card to the modem card connector.

24. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising mounting a real time clock battery beneath the quick-release cover.

25. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising placing a BIOS firmware hub beneath the quick-release cover.

26. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer housing with a plurality of tabs.

27. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer with a flexible catch.

28. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein locating comprises positioning the modem card connector in the opening adjacent to a computer keyboard.

29. (currently amended) A system of facilitating replacement of a modem card in a device capable of communicating over a network, comprising:

a modem card connector located within a portable computer housing at a position between a motherboard and a top deck of the housing; and means for detachably coupling a cover to the portable computer housing to cover the opening, such that the cover can be released and disconnected from the portable computer housing.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the means for detachably coupling comprises attaching the cover via at least one flexible catch.